

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

At page 8, line 11, please add the following:

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Figure 1 shows pictures of blood vessel perfusion in rabbit corneas. Factor XIII was injected into the right cornea and a similar volume of PBS (saline) was injected into the left cornea. Fig. 1A shows the PBS-treated negative control. Fig. 1B shows the Factor XIII-treated cornea, 48 hours post-injection. Fig. 1C shows the Factor XIII-treated cornea, 72 hours post-injection.

Figure 2 shows histological sections of rabbit corneas. Rabbit corneas were treated as described above for Figure 1. The corneas were excised, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, and stained with hematoxylin-eosin for histological evaluation by light microscopy and with GSLI-isolectin B<sub>4</sub> for evaluation of blood vessels. Fig. 2A shows the hematoxylin-eosin stain of PBS-treated cornea. Fig. 2B shows the hematoxylin-eosin stain of Factor XIII-treated cornea. Fig. 2C shows the GSLI-isolectin B<sub>4</sub> stain of Factor XIII-treated cornea.

Figure 3 shows histological sections of polymerized basement membrane preparations from mice. Control or Factor XIII-knock out mice were injected subcutaneously with a polymerized basement membrane preparation. After two weeks, the polymerized preparation was dissected and analyzed by CD31 staining to detect endothelial cells.

Figure 4 shows histological sections from ischemic rat hearts. Rat coronary arteries were ligated and the hearts were injected with saline, basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or Factor XIII every 7 days for three weeks. The cardiac tissue was fixed

in 4% paraformaldehyde and stained with hematoxylin-eosin for histological evaluation by light microscopy and with GSLI-isolectin B<sub>4</sub> for evaluation of blood vessels. Fig. 4A shows hematoxylin-eosin staining of ischemic rat hearts. Fig. 4B is representative of neovascularization of rat hearts.

Figure 5 shows pictures of blood vessel perfusion in transplanted neonatal mouse hearts. Neonatal murine hearts were transplanted into host mice and treated with Factor XIII or saline. After one week, the transplanted cardiac tissue was analyzed for new vessel formation and representative pictures of saline-treated and Factor XIII-treated mice are shown.